

The OSBA Leadership Institute is a structured recognition program designed to support and develop leadership skills for board members, superintendents, executive directors, presidents and administrative professionals serving educational boards.



OSBA Leadership Institute Program *Overview*

CERTIFICATE DESCRIPTION

Participants earn certificates based on their involvement in leadership courses designed to strengthen governance, equity and effective decision-making in education. The program's tiers — Bronze, Silver and Gold — build upon one another, helping participants enhance their leadership capabilities.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to:

- Active school, charter, community college and education service district board members
- Current administrators and administrative professionals who directly serve educational boards

PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY

OSBA Leadership Institute offers flexible learning options to accommodate busy professionals. Courses are available online and in person at workshops and conferences, including custom on-site sessions tailored to local needs.

HOW CERTIFICATION WORKS

Participants are encouraged to complete the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels sequentially. Each level builds upon foundational knowledge, culminating in advanced leadership skills.

However, participants attending preconference institute events may bypass the sequential order for that specific level, though formal recognition for silver and gold requires completing all prior levels.

FULL CERTIFICATION

Upon completing all three levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold), participants receive the Leadership Institute Individual Certificate of Completion, a prestigious acknowledgment of their mastery of leadership concepts and readiness for advanced leadership roles.

Eligibility Year and Time Limits

The eligibility period for earning credit toward certification starts on September 1 and ends on August 31 of the following year. There are no

time limits for completing each certification level, and credit accumulates throughout a board member's service.

THE 12 STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE BOARDSMANSHIP

Developed from Dr. Tom Alsbury's ongoing research on "Balanced Governance."

- Standard 1: Vision-Directed Planning
- Standard 2: Community Engagement
- Standard 3: Effective Leadership
- Standard 4: Accountability
- Standard 5: Data-Driven Improvement
- Standard 6: Cultural Responsiveness
- Standard 7: Culture and Climate
- Standard 8: Learning Organization
- Standard 9: Systems Thinking
- Standard 10: Innovation and Creativity
- Standard 11: Board Conduct and Relationships
- Standard 12: Budgeting and Financial Accountability

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Board members who achieve recognition will be honored publicly through:

- News releases to local communities
- Features in OSBA newsletters
- Recognition at OSBA conventions

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THE CODE OR VISIT
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LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CATEGORIES

WITH ALIGNED BOARD GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

REV. 06/23/2026

COURSE CATEGORY	LEVEL	DESCRIPTIONS	BOARD GOVERNANCE STANDARDS
Board Governance Essentials	BRONZE	Participants will learn key roles in board governance	11
Introduction to Educational Equity		Understand the concepts of equity, equality and inclusivity in educational settings and their impact on student success	6
Policy Fundamentals		Learn how policies are adopted, implemented and their purpose	11
Public Meetings and Ethics		Learn some basics of Oregon public meeting laws and get an overview of important laws that pertain to public officials	11
School Finance and Budgeting		Discover the board's role in fiscal oversight and understand what the budget process entails	12
Vision-Directed Planning for Student Success	SILVER	Understand the board's role in setting high expectations and establishing the direction for improving student learning	1
Accountability and Continuous Improvement		Learn how boards can measure their performance, the superintendent's performance and overall progress of district strategic goals	4
Community Engagement and Advocacy	SILVER	Participants will learn what community engagement means and looks like within their role as a board	2
Introduction to Culturally Responsive Governance		Learn what cultural responsiveness means and how boards can create a culture and climate that values each student	6
Effective Leadership and Governance		Learn to embrace proactive and integrated leadership models that prioritize student learning and improvement initiatives	3
Organizational Culture and Climate	GOLD	Participants will learn to create a positive educational environment by fostering trust, safety, high expectations and a culture of service	7
Using Data for Student Success		Gain the skills to effectively use data for identifying gaps, measuring progress and making informed decisions	5
Culturally Responsive Practices in Governance		Learn best practices for how to create an inclusive environment that values cultural differences and the many facets of diversity	6
Innovative Practices to Improve Student Learning		Learn how to foster a learning organization that enhances leadership, creativity and collaboration	10
Systems Thinking in Governance		Learn how to use systems thinking with a unified approach that values long-term outcomes	9

WHILE PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COMPLETE EACH LEVEL BEFORE ADVANCING TO THE NEXT, IT IS NOT A STRICT REQUIREMENT.